



TYPES OF ADVISORIES	
Bulletin	Describes current developments or general trends regarding threats of terrorism.
Elevated Alert	Warns of a credible terrorism threat against the United States.
Imminent Alert	Warns of a credible, specific and impending terrorism threat against the United States.

**Office of Protective
Services**

Jan 2021 DHS Bulletin

NASA CI/CT MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE – February 2021

This monthly newsletter is published to inform NASA personnel of significant issues related to counterintelligence, counterterrorism, and counterintelligence cyber matters. To learn more about CI/CT awareness, or to schedule a CI/CT presentation, please contact the CI point of contact located on the last page.

Significant Counterterrorism (CT) Issues:

5 TERRORISM TRENDS TO WATCH IN 2021



2020 emphasized the importance of staying nimble as multiple threats simultaneously unfold. A pandemic was coupled with the most active Atlantic hurricane season in history, political tension and protests kept law enforcement on its toes. 2021 promises no respite in the potential threats facing the U.S.

<https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/infrastructure-security/5-terrorism-trends-to-watch-in-2021/>

HEZBOLLAH'S GLOBAL THREAT

The previous administration early on recognized the national security dangers posed by the convergence of organized crime and terror finance, and in particular the threat from Lebanese Hezbollah's global criminal syndicate.

<https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2021/01/14/hezbollahs-global-threat/>



US TERRORISM ALERT WARNS OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE



The Department of Homeland Security issued a national terrorism bulletin recently warning of the lingering potential for violence from people motivated by antigovernment sentiment after President Biden's election, suggesting the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol may embolden extremists.

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/national-international/us-terrorism-alert-warns-of-politically-motivated-violence/2423141/>

Significant Counterintelligence Issues:

NASA SCIENTIST PLEADS GUILTY - THE CHINESE 1000 TALENTS PROGRAM

A senior NASA scientist pleaded guilty recently in a New York federal court to lying about his involvement with a program established by the Chinese government which the US says sought to recruit those with access to intellectual property.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/14/us/nasa-scientist-guilty-chinese-program/index.html>





MIT PROFESSOR CHARGES WITH MILLIONS IN GRANT FRAUD, CHINA TIES



An MIT professor was charged recently with millions of dollars in grant fraud for allegedly hiding his relationship with China. Gang Chen was arrested at his home in Cambridge and search warrants were executed at his house and office. The FBI in Boston said Chen failed to disclose his work with China to the U.S. Department of Energy when he applied for millions of dollars in grants.

<https://boston.cbslocal.com/2021/01/14/gang-chen-mit-professor-arrested-grant-fraud-china/>

CHINESE RESEARCHER SENTENCED FOR THEFT AND FALSE STATEMENTS

Zheng entered the United States on a J-1 visa and conducted cancer-cell research at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston from Sept. 2018 to Dec. 2019. Zheng stole vials of biological research, hid the vials in his luggage, and attempted to take them out of the United States aboard a flight destined for China.



<https://coi.ufl.edu/2021/01/19/chinese-researcher-sentenced-for-making-false-statements-to-federal-agents/>

Analyst Notes – Items to Watch:

Despite remarkable successes in 2020 against ISIS and Al-Qaeda leadership, both groups have not only managed to survive, but thrive in some regions. Both terrorist groups continue to persevere, even expanding in “ungoverned areas” of Africa and the Middle East. Despite intense military and intelligence operations, their planning continues. AQIM, AQAP and other Al-Qaeda affiliated groups continue to fight for influence across the Middle East and South East Asia. The news is full of Chinese espionage cases being prosecuted across the United States. Chinese intelligence gathering against the United States seems to be escalating, with over 1000 CI investigations being conducted by the FBI currently. The Chinese CI threat is multi-faceted, looking to acquire ANY technology or information that would advance China in the world market. China is actively using “traditional espionage” (spies) as well as “non-traditional” collectors, such as scientists and researchers in the U.S. The NASA CI/CT division continues to monitor these threats and any others that have the potential to harm NASA or its equities.

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